

REMARKS

In the First Office Action dated May 6, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 18, and 19 under § 102(e) as anticipated by *Kohno et al.* U.S. Patent No. 6,028,717; rejected claims 1, 6, 7, and 10-12 under § 102(b) as anticipated by *Shibayama* U.S. Patent No. 5,694,253; rejected claims 1, 13, and 14 under § 102(b) as anticipated by *Betensky* U.S. Patent No. 4,299,454; rejected claims 1, 13, and 14 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Khono et al.* U.S. Patent No. 6,028,717 in view of *Tsuji et al.* U.S. Patent No. 4,763,998; rejected claims 19 and 20 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Khono et al.* U.S. Patent No. 6,028,717 in view of *Khono et al.* U.S. Patent No. 6,118,592; and rejected claims 1 and 6-8 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shibayama* U.S. Patent No. 5,694,253.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 9, and 15-17.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 8, and 17-19. Applicants have cancelled claims 5, 6, 9, 16, and 20. Applicants have added new claims 21-47 to further define the invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration for the reasons that follow.

The Examiner indicated claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 18, and 19 to include the limitations of claim 5. Accordingly, claims 1, 18, and 19 and those claims depending from claims 1, 18, and 19 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claims 21, 30, 38, 46, and 47 are in condition for allowance at least because those claims include subject matter already indicated as allowable. Claim 21 includes allowable subject matter of claim 9; claim 30 includes allowable subject matter of claim 15; claim 38 includes allowable subject matter of claim 16; and claims 46 and 47 include allowable subject matter of claim 5.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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